**[](http://www.vbschools.com/compass/index.asp)**

**21st Century Skills for VBCPS**

Our **Compass to 2015** strategic plan for Virginia Beach City Public Schools has been designed to equip students with the skills they need to succeed as 21st century learners, workers and citizens. So just what are those 21st century skills? Based on our research and our own experience, we believe the following to be key skills for today’s world. Therefore, instruction will be designed to foster the development of those attributes.

**Critical and Creative Thinkers, Innovators, and Problem Solvers**

**Critical Thinking**:  Analyze and evaluate information and ideas to determine appropriate actions or develop a point of view.

**Creative/Innovative Thinking**:  Generate original ideas, unique solutions or new associations of existing ideas for an aesthetic or practical purpose.

**Problem Solving**:  Anticipate and identify problems and challenges to develop solutions that effectively address them.

**Effective Communicators and Collaborators**

**Information Literacy**:  Use digital technology (networks, databases, and print materials) in an ethical manner, to identify relevant sources, evaluate validity, synthesize, analyze, and interpret information.

**Listening**:  Construct meaning and demonstrate understanding from verbal and nonverbal cues.

**Collaboration**:  Interact with diverse groups to achieve an objective while displaying flexibility and willingness to understand alternate points of view.

**Communication**:  Articulate ideas and information clearly and appropriately for the given context, medium, and audience.

**Globally Aware, Independent, Responsible Learners and Citizens**

**Social Responsibility**: Understand the importance of acting with integrity, empathy, and compassion and commit to making a meaningful contribution to the local, national and/or global community by offering time, talents, advocacy, and/or resources to a worthy cause.

**Sustainability**:  Foster responsible development and protection of the world’s natural environment and resources through individual and collective action.

**Interdependence**:  Recognize and understand the social, economic, and political issues and concerns that connect us on all levels - locally, nationally and/or globally - and commit, when necessary, to using this knowledge to inform decisions and actions.

**Health Literacy**:Make informed decisions based on appropriate sources for a healthy lifestyle.